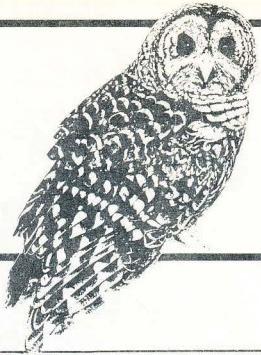




Nongame News



Winter 1986-87

Eagles and Polo?

What comes to mind when you hear the terms mallet, divot and chukker? Well, if you're like me, you might think of a large wooden hammer, the clod of turf that usually travels farther than your golf ball and a species of partridge introduced to our western states, (spelled chukar). However, these terms take on an entirely different meaning if you happen to be a polo enthusiast or were on hand at the Mattix Run Equestrian Center in Smithville, New Jersey on September 13, 1986.

On this day the British Combined Services Polo Team took the field against a strong Harrah's Casino Polo Team to vie for the Tricorne International Challenge Cup. "Fine," you say, "but what in the world does all this have to do with eagles?" Well, thanks to the concerned efforts of Elizabeth de Guevara, President of Tricorne Limousines, Inc. and sponsor of the polo match, all proceeds from the event were donated to the Endangered and Nongame Species Program's bald eagle restoration project. Ms. de Guevara had heard about New Jersey's efforts to restore the state's bald eagle population and felt that she could support those efforts through the benefit polo match.

For the past three years, the Harrah's Polo Team has participated in benefit polo matches for a variety of charities including the March of Dimes and the Atlantic City Medical Center Neo Natal Unit to name a few. Harrah's polo team plays a series of matches, each one sponsored by various New Jersey businesses, to benefit the charity of their choice.

When the dust finally settled, the Harrah's Team emerged as the victors over the British Combined Services Team. At

the game's end, the winning team was presented with the Tricorne International Challenge Trophy, a porcelain replica of a bald eagle returning to her nestlings. Following the trophy presentations, Ms. de Guevara made a symbolic presentation of an eagle egg replica to Director Russell A. Cookingham, Director of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and Jo Ann Frier-Murza, Chief of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program. After all of the donations and pledges had been counted, a check in the amount of \$7,000.00 was presented to the Program for the bald eagle restoration project.

Over the past couple of years the bald eagle project has benefitted from several unique funding efforts. In 1985 the Haddonfield Middle School became the first group to "Adopt-An-Eagle." They held, among other things, a pledge-sponsored run and raised over \$6,400.00 for the eagle project. Since then, students of the Horace Mann School in Cherry Hill have raised over a thousand dollars for New Jersey's eagle project while the student Conservation Club at Montclair State College has made monthly donations. The concern and generosity of groups like these, and all of New Jersey's taxpayers who "check-off" for wildlife, has enabled the release of 36 Canadian eagles through the ENSP's eagle hacking project.

Any group that is interested in participating in the ENSP's "Adopt-An-Eagle" program should contact: Mike Valent, Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife, Northern District Office, RD #1, Box 383, Rt. 173W, Hampton, NJ 08827; or by phone at (201) 735-5450.

check-off for wildlife

Endangered and Nongame Species Program



Purple Loosestrife Alert

Purple Loosestrife as a garden plant is a long-time favorite among home gardeners, but it recently is gaining a bad reputation, especially among environmentalists. The plant's popularity among home flower gardeners stems from the fact that it is extremely prolific, hardy and very attractive with its purplish-red, foot-long flower spikes.

However, this plant has been causing some real environmental concerns. When confined to flower gardens the plant is harmless and makes an attractive addition to the home. The problems arise when the plant escapes its boundaries and invades nearby wildlife habitats, especially wetlands.

This noxious plant has already invaded many of the remaining wetlands of this and other states across the country. The results are that purple loosestrife replaces native flora and in turn causes the loss of wildlife habitat. Our native wildlife does not utilize this plant for either food or nesting.

The problem has become so serious that some states, like Ohio, have enacted legislation prohibiting the sale, offering for sale and planting of the seeds or plants.

If you have friends or neighbors with this plant around their homes you may want to advise them of this dilemma and ask them to consider replacing the common purple loosestrife with other varieties of loosestrife which are equally attractive but are non-invasive. If you see garden centers selling the plants or seeds you should advise them of the problems these plants are creating. Once this obnoxious plant becomes firmly established it is extremely difficult to control effectively.

Wildlife Management Area Guide

This year when you take to the fields carry a copy of the revised and expanded "Guide to Wildlife Management Areas." The guide contains 125 pages of fact filled descriptions of each of the 61 Wildlife Management Areas under the administration of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

The guide provides information on area locations with maps illustrating boundaries, wooded areas, fields, lakes, streams and marshes. This information is invaluable to birders, hikers, nature photographers and other area users. Also included are species of wildlife that you would be likely to encounter while afield.

We encourage you to become familiar with the Division's Wildlife Management Areas. They represent a diversity of habitats ranging from coastal wetlands to upland hardwood forests. These areas provide many opportunities for outdoor oriented recreations that are compatible with wildlife management.

Guides may be purchased by sending a check or money order for \$6.50 to:

Wildlife Management Guide
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife
CN 400
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium 1987

The Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary will be hosting the Annual National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) Symposium which is scheduled to run from March 18-22, 1987 at the Holiday Inn Surfside in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

The NWRA is a national organization which serves to promote professionalism in wildlife rehabilitation and research while working to enhance public awareness of the environment.

For more information, please contact:

Barbara Suto
Wildlife Biologist
Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary
18328 Gulf Boulevard
Indian Shores, FL 33535

Nongame News

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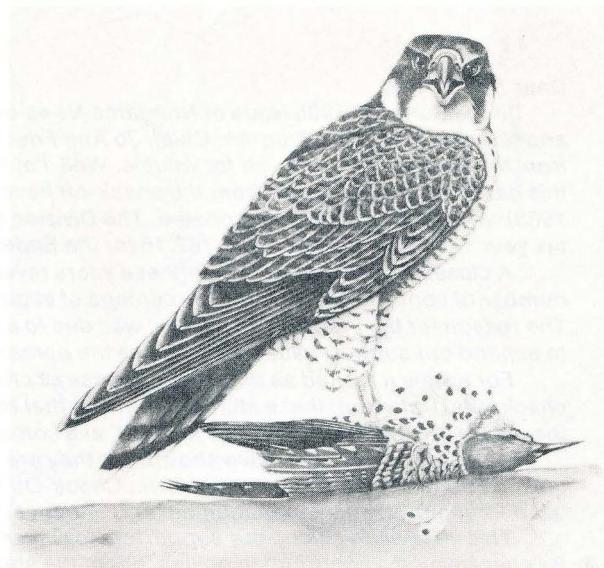
New Regulations for Higbee Beach WMA

On October 20, 1986 new regulations went into effect governing the use of Higbee Beach WMA (HBWMA). The regulations reflect consideration of recent data showing the effect that unrestricted human use of the area has on bird use of the same habitat. The regulations implement the primary management objective for Higbee Beach as stated in the 1983 management plan that the area be maintained and enhanced for use by migratory and resident endangered and threatened wildlife.

The new regulations will affect most user groups. Hunting and trapping are prohibited from September to mid-December (the first Monday after the six day firearm white-tailed deer season). Hikers and birders shall be restricted to designated trails, prohibited from travelling in fields that are designated as "refuge areas," and shall be limited to groups of not more than six persons during the period beginning September 15 and ending on November 1. However, a no fee permit is available at the Higbee Beach office for all groups over six people.

The regulations also address the use of the beach area by motor vehicles. A no fee permit is required from the Division's Trenton office, and vehicles may not be present on the beach between 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. At all times they are prohibited from the beach area from two hours before high tide to two hours after high tide as posted at the HBWMA parking lot.

Now, if you've managed to wade through all of this, "just what do all of these restrictions and regulations mean?" Well, putting it plain and simple, we are essentially giving the area back to the migrating birds from mid-September through mid-December. As you have probably heard many times over, HBWMA is an extremely important area for migrating birds, including such endangered species as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Its location at the southern



tip of Cap May County peninsula provides a needed rest area for tens of thousands of birds before they cross Delaware Bay. Many of these birds fly as far south as Central and South America.

Thus, the new regulations were developed to minimize the adverse impacts to migrating birds which can result from unrestricted human use during fall migration and to prevent conflicts between user groups. It is the Division's policy that the priority human use during the fall is birding, and therefore, hunting will be restricted to the extent that it conflicts with birding.

To receive a copy of the full text of the new regulations, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Division's Trenton office.

Barn Owl Report Available

ICI Americas, a Wilmington, Delaware based company that manufactures rodenticides, has joined a number of other organizations to sponsor research on the Common Barn Owl. The report, "Portrait of the Barn Owl—A Closer Look," has concentrated on four major objectives. The first was to determine why barn owl populations were apparently declining in some areas of the United States, yet in some areas they remained stable or increased. The second objective was to find out whether new rodenticides containing the active ingredient Brodifacoum would contribute to the population decline. The third objective was to investigate and document aspects of barn owl life which could further the understanding of owl ecology and population management. Finally, researchers hoped to discover techniques that could protect and enhance barn owl populations and at the same time foster a greater public awareness.

The research was conducted over a seven year period from 1979 to 1985 on study sites in Ohio and southern New Jersey.

This excellent publication is available by writing to:

Manager, Environmental and External Affairs
ICI Americas, Inc.
Agricultural Chemicals Division
Wilmington, DE 19897

Supreme Court Ruling Clarifies Eagle Protection

A recent US Supreme Court ruling has reaffirmed the intent of the 1962 Congressional amendment of the Eagle Protection Act. That amendment forbids eagles to be killed, except when authorized by the Secretary of the Interior for Indian religious purposes, and supersedes Indian treaty rights.

The Supreme Court ruling was handed down after a federal court of appeals had overturned the conviction of a native American found guilty of killing four bald eagles on a reservation and selling the remains of the birds.

Attorneys for the defendant, who belongs to the Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, argued that their client was allowed to take the eagles according to a 1858 treaty which protected the tribe's rights to hunt on their land.

The ruling, written by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, said that the Congressional amendment to the Eagle Protection Act unmistakably states that Indian hunting of bald or golden eagles, except by special permit, is inconsistent with the need to preserve the species.

The ruling is important because it confirms that eagles cannot be hunted by Indians on their reservations except when special permit authorization has been given by the Interior Department.



December, 1986

Dear Supporters,

In the Summer 1985 issue of Nongame News our readers were greeted by a letter from Endangered and Nongame Species Program Chief, Jo Ann Frier-Murza, reporting grim news about declining revenues from the income tax check-off for wildlife. Well, I'm happy to report that things have turned around considerably this past year and revenues from the check-off have surpassed the all-time high received in 1984 (tax year 1983) when \$481,790.78 was donated. The Division of Taxation reports that, so far, the total revenues for tax year 1985 has reached \$487,782.16 for the Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund.

A closer look at the figures for these years reveals that although revenue was higher in 1985 the total number of contributors, and the percentage of eligible taxpayers making donations, was down from 1983. The reason for the increase, therefore, was due to a larger average donation. This indicates a need for us to expand our support base and increase the percentage of taxpayers that support our Program.

For awhile it looked as though New Jersey's check-off would follow the same trends as other state's wildlife check-offs. Data from these states has shown that revenues tend to increase during the first few years of the check-off and then decline or level off, at a somewhat lower amount, in subsequent years.

New Jersey's citizens have shown that they are truly concerned about their wildlife heritage by checking-off line 39B of the state income tax form. Check-Off revenues currently represent more than 90% of the funding used for the protection, management and enhancement of our endangered and nongame wildlife.

This year we're asking our supporters to "Invest in New Jersey's Wildlife and Watch Your Interest Soar." By checking-off a contribution on line 39B of the state income tax form, you will be supporting projects like the bald eagle and peregrine falcon restoration projects, endangered and threatened species surveys, habitat protection and interstate cooperative projects to preserve critical areas for migrating birds (see "Annual Report Available" in this issue).

As always, we urge our readers to help spread the word about the tax check-off for wildlife. We'll be glad to supply you with flyers, posters or other promotional pieces that are available. You can help by telling a friend and your tax accountant about the importance of the check-off, by distributing our promotional flyers where you work, or by hanging a poster where you shop. This year our full color poster will feature a soaring bald eagle with the slogan: "Invest in New Jersey's Wildlife and Watch Your Interest Soar." These, suitable for framing, posters are available upon request from our office or talk to your tax accountant about getting your free copy.

For more information on how you can help, contact Mike Valent, at the Northern District Office, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, RD #1, Box 383, Route 173W, Hampton, NJ 08827.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Cunningham, Director
Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife

Lead Shot Banned by 1991

A recent federal court ruling has resulted in the nationwide ban of lead shot for waterfowl hunting by 1991. After ten years of controversy over the dangers of lead shot in the environment, the battle may be over.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) had filed a lawsuit seeking to ban the use of lead shot for duck hunting in the lower 48 states by the 1987 waterfowl season. However, U.S. District Court Judge, Edward J. Garcia felt that the NWF was asking too much too soon and ruled in favor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) five-year phase out plan. The FWS's plan calls for a complete phase out in the use of lead shot by 1991.

NWF officials, although disappointed that the judge did not legally order the FWS to carry out its proposal, considered the plan acceptable if the Service follows through and enforces the new regulations.

Lead poisoning is a serious problem in many areas where waterfowl ingest lead shot deposited in wetlands by hunters.

Lead shot is already banned in some regions where poisoning has been detected. Research has shown that the problem is more extensive than once thought. Aside from deaths in waterfowl, lead toxicity has resulted in losses to our bald eagles. Eagles ingest lead shot when they feed on waterfowl that have eaten the pellets. Reports indicate that some 60 bald eagles have been lost to lead poisoning since 1983.

In New Jersey restrictions on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting have been in effect since 1976. Steel shot is required for waterfowl hunting east of the Garden State Parkway from the Shark River to the Cape May Canal, and the steel shot zone will be expanded in 1987.

In spite of these restrictions the ingestion of lead shot continues at an intolerable level posing a threat not only to our waterfowl but other wildlife. Realizing this, the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife supports efforts to completely eliminate the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting in New Jersey.

Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers Found in Cuba

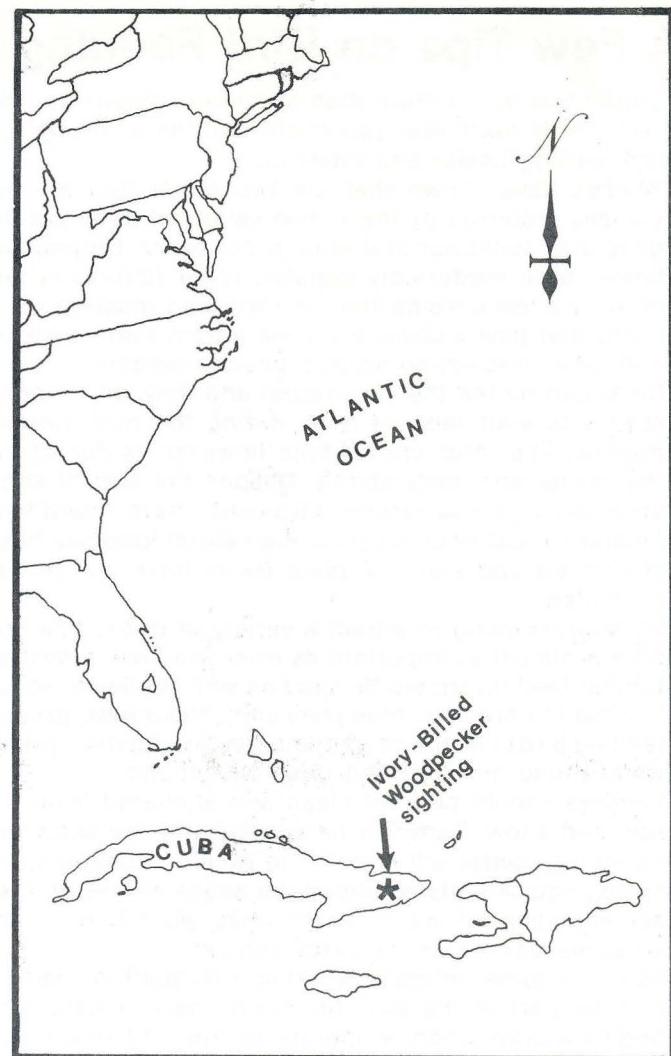
American and Cuban scientists recently discovered two ivory-billed woodpeckers in a Cuban forest. This is the first sighting in years of a species that many experts had believed to be extinct.

After years of hoping and searching, Lester L. Short, Chairman of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History, finally encountered the birds in early April 1986, three weeks after Cuban biologists made the first sighting.

Short, an authority on woodpeckers, was invited by Cuba in 1984 to help organize the search for the elusive woodpecker which was rumored to exist in a remote forested region of eastern Cuba.

As a result of the find, the Cuban government banned all logging operations in a large area around the location of the sightings and is only allowing scientists to enter. This will create an economic hardship for the Cubans, but they are sensitive to the fact that these are probably the last ivory bills in the world.

One day, attempts could be made to reintroduce the bird to its historic range in the southern United States. However, this would not be attempted until the birds were firmly established in Cuba. So, it could be 10 years, if ever, before we see any attempts to reintroduce ivory bills in this country.



The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service

The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service (FWRS) is a computerized information retrieval system and repository that provides state research information to biologists, management personnel, and other interested persons. Established in 1965 to store and retrieve documents produced under the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts), FWRS has expanded its efforts to include indexing and accessing reports filed by other offices. For example, reports prepared by the Anadromous Fish Conservation Program, Endangered Species Grants Program, and Cooperative Fishery and Wildlife Research Units can also be found at the FWRS facility.

Cooperative members of the FWRS are state fish and wildlife agencies, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Units. Clients include other federal agencies, non-federal agencies and organizations, universities, private companies, and interested citizens. FWRS services include: (1) computerized literature searches; (2) technical reports in hardcopy or microfiche; (3) Fish and Wildlife Thesaurus; (4) indexes of fish and/or wildlife research being conducted by individual states; (5) quarterly newsletter; (6) comprehensive searches of the Current Federal Aid Research (CFA) data file; (7) repository for lead shot/steel shot information; (8) repository for information on boating access facilities; and, (9) referral to alternate information sources. Interested readers should contact Mary J. (Lewis) Nickum, Project Manager, at the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, Informatics General Corporation, 6011 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852 4(301) 770-3000 or toll free 800-582-34215.

Open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

User Policy: Open to the public for on-site use.

Photocopy service available—\$.10/page.

Services: Online searching of DIALOG files 957, 920.

Mexico Acts to Protect Monarchs

Cape May County is world renowned among birding enthusiasts for its spectacular fall bird migrations. An equally spectacular, although much less popular, natural phenomenon is the fall migration of the monarch butterfly. The monarchs pass through Cape May in great numbers as they embark on a remarkable journey that will take them to a tiny patch of fir forest on the rugged slopes of a volcanic mountain near Mexico City.

This one site serves as the winter habitat for all the monarch butterflies east of the Rocky Mountains. Those west of the Rockies migrate to about 40 winter roosts along the California coast.

In recent years there has been a growing concern for the fate of these winter sites. The once remote area in Mexico has come under recent threat from logging and agricultural operations, while several wintering areas in California have already been lost.

Conservationists, however, are optimistic about the protection of the Mexican site. On 25 August 1986 the Mexican government issued a proclamation declaring the monarch's overwintering site an "ecological preserve." The proclamation is a major victory for the Mexican conservation group, Monarca A.C. and the World Wildlife Fund, which have provided substantial support in winning protection for the site.

A Few Tips on Bird Feeding

If you're one of the more than 62 million Americans that feed wild birds each year you might find the following tips on bird feeding useful and interesting.

- Studies have shown that the two seeds that are especially preferred by the widest variety of birds are the oil (black) sunflower and white proso millet. Striped sun flower were moderately popular. Niger (thistle) is favored by a few species like our state bird (eastern goldfinch) and pine siskins. Suet will attract woodpeckers and other interesting visitors to your feeders.
- Birds can be fed the year-round and they will respond readily to your feeders even during the mid-summer months. The most critical time however, is during the late winter and early spring. Despite the lack of snow cover during these periods, birds often have a hard time finding a meal since much of the natural food has been consumed and summer plant foods have not yet rejuvenated.
- When attempting to attract a variety of birds, how you feed is almost as important as what you feed. Elevated, tubular feeders should be stocked with sunflower seeds to cater to cardinals, blue jays, and chickadees; ground feeding birds like the cowbird and mourning dove prefer white proso millet placed near the ground.
- Feeders should be kept clean and sheltered from the rain and snow. Tamping or sweeping of the snow beneath the feeder will enable the birds to consume any spillage quickly. Using unpopular seeds will result in an accumulation of waste which may attract such unwelcome visitors as squirrels and rats.
- Maintain some unfrozen water in a birdbath or pan for at least part of the day. Songbirds have a hard time finding a drink when temperatures remain below freezing.
- A good way to discourage cats and other ground predators is to set up a large-mesh chicken wire fence around the feeding station. This will keep them away or at least give the birds ample flight time.
- Don't let your birdfeeder observations be spoiled by the setting sun. Switch on the lights (red bulbs work the best) at dusk and check about once an hour for nighttime activity. Those large hardwood trees in your yard provide excellent homes for flying squirrels. Flying squirrels may have been using your feeders for years without you even knowing it.

For more information on bird feeding ,and to get a free copy of the National Wildlife Federation's Wild Bird Feeding Preferences, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the ENSP's Trenton office.

New Council Focuses on State Recreation Needs

Twenty-one prominent New Jersey residents, leaders in the state's business community, local government and recreation resources groups, have been appointed by Governor Thomas H. Kean to the newly formed Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors.

State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Richard T. Dewling announced that the Council held its first organizational meeting recently at the Monmouth County Park System Hominy Hill Conference Center in Colts Neck.

"The Council is charged with making recommendations to the Governor so that New Jersey will have the land and water resource base necessary for the state to meet its open space and recreational needs into the year 2000," Commissioner Dewling said.

The Council will also respond to recommendations forthcoming from the President's Commission on American Outdoors, chaired by Lamar Alexander, Governor of Tennessee. Those recommendations are likely to have a great impact on the federal financial support that New Jersey can expect in the future for open space and recreational needs, Dewling explained.

Governor Kean has appointed Kevin J. Collins of Wyckoff, Bergen County, as Chairman of the Council. Collins is Managing Director of the First Boston Corporation.

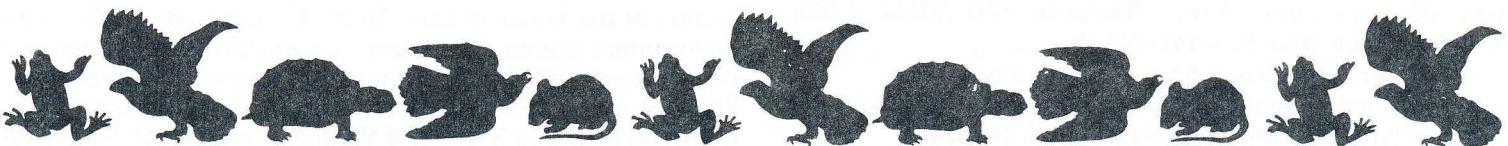
According to Chairman Collins, "The Council will be examining New Jersey's recreational resources and determining what New Jersey residents will want to do outdoors in the future and, consequently, what funding is required to make it all possible.

"We will be reaching out to private citizens and interest groups;" Collins added, "to get their thoughts and ideas on what they believe New Jersey's outdoors should be in the future."

Chairman Collins indicated that the Council will hold hearings throughout the state where individuals and organizations interested in open and outdoor recreation will have the opportunity to testify. The first of these meetings will be held on January 13, 1987 at Glassboro State College with additional meetings being held at Trenton State College on January 20, 1987 and at Ramapo State College on January 27, 1987.

In establishing the Council, Governor Kean said, "I am especially pleased that these outstanding individuals have agreed to work with us. New Jersey has long recognized the social, health and economic benefits of outdoor recreation. The Council will help insure that we have open space and outdoor recreation resources that the citizens of New Jersey want both now and in the future."

For more information contact Chris Smoot at (609) 292-8241.



NJENSP Hosts Nongame Wildlife Meeting

In October the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program hosted the first Northeast Nongame Wildlife Technical Committee Meeting at the Marine Sciences Consortium in Seaville.

Seventy wildlife professionals from 13 northeastern states were on hand to discuss current and future strategies for the management of endangered, threatened and nongame wildlife. Participants included representatives from state and federal wildlife agencies, private conservation organizations and members of the educational community. Topics that were addressed included nongame promotion and funding, species protection and restoration, habitat protection and management, and public information and education.

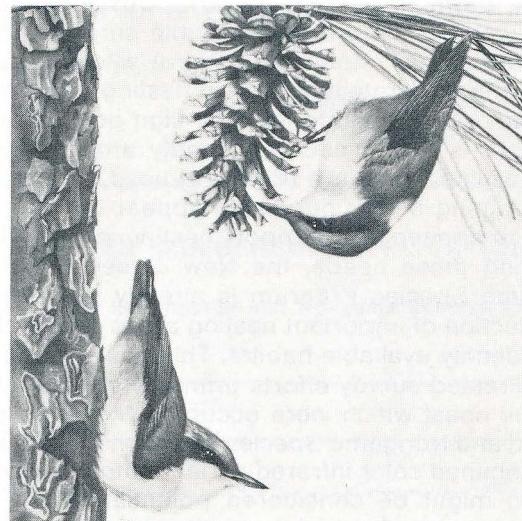
What made this conference unique is that it was the first meeting of its kind in the northeast that focused specifically on nongame wildlife needs. The management of our nongame animals is a relatively new branch within the field of wildlife research and management and there is a real need for communication among nongame professionals.

Until recently, little money has been available to wildlife agencies for the research and management of nongame animals. However, the recent addition of voluntary income tax "check-offs" for wildlife on many state income tax forms has provided much of the needed funding for this work. Currently 32 states, including New Jersey, have check-offs that fund the vast majority of research, protection and management of our endangered and nongame wildlife. While taxpayer response to the wildlife check-offs has been extremely generous, they are very unpredictable. Program managers never know how much money they will be working with from year to year. This makes any kind of long or short term planning extremely difficult and requires that planning strategies be flexible enough to accommodate changes in revenue from year to year.

The conference enabled wildlife managers from all of the

northeastern states to exchange ideas and coordinate their research and management efforts. Many of the species that these states are working with are wide ranging and occur throughout the northeast. Therefore, the coordination of each of the state's research and management efforts are essential to the successful management of a species or group of species. When working with limited funds there is definitely no room, or need, to reinvent the wheel.

The conference was a great success in that it enlightened each of the participating states of the others involvements and priorities. The result will be better coordination of the research and management of our endangered and nongame wildlife in the northeast.



Problems Checking-Off?

Each year we get many calls from eager supporters who report that they had checked-off a donation only to have it returned to them in a separate refund check from the Division of Taxation. This is just one example of the difficulty some taxpayers have experienced with the processing of their intended contributions. If you had a similar problem, or any problem with the processing of your intended contribution, we would like to hear from you.

Our Division of Taxation has been very cooperative in responding to the needs of taxpayers contributing to the Check-Off. The information that you provide us with will help us identify problems and develop solutions.

One common error that contributors make when checking-off is not subtracting their donation from their refund. Unlike the Presidential Campaign Fund, donations to the Wildlife Check-Off must be subtracted from your refund. If you owe taxes to the state and would still like to contribute you must indicate the amount of your contribution on line 39B and add that amount to your taxes owed. Your contribution will automatically go into the Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund.

One sure-fire way to avoid any of these problems is to make your donations directly to the Endangered and Nongame Species Program by sending a check to: Endangered and Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625. Please indicate on the check that it is intended as a donation to the Fund.

Nongame Reauthorization Signed

In July, the Senate approved legislation reauthorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980, commonly known as the Nongame Act. The House passed a reauthorization bill last year, but that measure was stalled in the Senate until this past July. Shortly after receiving Senate approval President Reagan signed the act extending it to 1988.

The Nongame Act is designed to provide matching funds to state wildlife agencies for managing wildlife that is not hunted or trapped. However, Congress has not appropriated funds to activate the program even though 46 states reportedly set up nongame programs in order to participate.

The House hearings in 1985 included discussions of ways to fund the nongame program. Potential sources mentioned included excise taxes, a federal income tax check-off and a special postage stamp. However, the Senate could not muster interest in nongame this year and approved the House-passed measure (H.R. 1406) without hearings. A spokesman for the Senate Environment Committee said that the panel decided to go with a simple reauthorization now and deal with funding sources when the authorization expires in 1988.

Piping Plover Listed by USFWS

In January of 1986, the US Fish and Wildlife Service added the piping plover to the Federal Endangered Species List. The central/lakes (Great Lakes Region) population was classified as endangered while the Atlantic Coast population was listed as threatened. A recovery team has been formed and a preliminary draft of a recovery plan is now being circulated among state and federal biologists for review and comment.

Currently, the most important decision centers around recovery goals. What size population of piping plover should exist on the east coast before de-listing can be considered? The plan will almost certainly call for a significant increase in numbers, perhaps as high as 50%. Obviously such an ambitious goal will require considerable survey and management efforts from state and federal wildlife agencies. Measures aimed at protecting known nesting areas need to be increased. These include fencing, sign posting and patrolling. There is also a need to identify areas along New Jersey's coastline which are not being used, or are under-utilized, by piping plover but which appear to have all the necessary components to support nesting piping plovers.

Anticipating these needs, the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program is already working to increase protection of important nesting areas and to characterize and identify available habitat. This past season ENSP biologists directed survey efforts primarily at identifying all areas on the coast which were occupied by piping plover. Endangered and Nongame Species Program biologist, Dave Jenkins, examined color infrared aerial photos to identify all areas which might be considered potential piping plover habitat. Jenkins also checked these sites from the air during the osprey nest survey. With help from an army of dedicated volunteers, each of the areas was checked for the presence of piping plover. Surveyors walked nearly 100 miles of New Jersey's coastline listening for the "peep-low" call and looking for this cryptic denizen of the beach. When a bird was encountered the location was marked on a map and several variables, such as beach width, distance to buildings, and vegetation, were recorded. Back at the office, information was taken from the maps including distance to inlets and presence of intertidal pools and backwater feeding areas. Bob Steidl, Endangered and Nongame Species Program technician, measured these same variables at "non-occupied" habitat. A statistical comparison of the occupied and unoccupied sites should enable us to characterize piping plover habitat and identify areas which may be available for increasing populations. More importantly, the survey should identify areas that, with a little effort, could be made suitable nesting sites.

In 1985, the NJ Colonial Waterbird Conservation Coalition (NJCWCC) was formed out of a need to protect critical nesting areas along our coastline. The establishment of this informal group has resulted in increased coordination among the various federal, state, and private organizations involved in protecting beach nesting birds. Volunteer fencing and patrolling efforts have greatly increased thanks to the efforts of the NJCWCC volunteers. There has been a steady growth in the number of sites fenced, posted and patrolled since the inception of the NJCWCC.

Ambitious but obtainable recovery goals will require even more support from YOU the concerned conservationist. Encourage your local conservation organization to become in-

volved. If you need more information, contact one of the member organizations listed below, or write: Dave Jenkins, DEP, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program, RD #3, Box 386, Robbinsville, NJ 08691.

NJCWCC Member Groups and Contacts:

Joanna Burger
Rutgers Ecology Program
Dept. of Biological Sci.
Rutgers University
Piscataway, NJ
(201) 932-4318

Cindy O'Connor
Wetlands Institute
P.O. Box 378
Stone Harbor, NJ 08247
(609) 368-1211

Manahawkin Explorer, Post 23
c/o Lee Kalsch
448 E. Bay Ave.
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
(609) 597-8131

Edward J. O'Connor
Monmouth Audubon Chapter
90 Luke Street
Morgan, NJ 08879
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(201) 766-5787

Jeanne McArthur
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Gateway National Rec. Area
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Hal Laskowski
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
Barnegat Division
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Barnegat, NJ 08005
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Steven Fowler
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(201) 223-6985

Betsy Jones
Atlantic Audubon Society
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Absecon, NJ 08201
(609) 652-0847



Join the

"Friends of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program"

If you're one of the special few who have a strong personal commitment to the protection, conservation and wise use of our natural resources we need your support. By accepting this invitation to become a member of the Friends of the Endangered Species Program you will be joining a group of people who share your concerns for our environment and who want to take a more active role in preserving the natural resources of our state.

How many times have we said or heard the expression, "There ought to be a law . . . !", after witnessing or reading about a tragic event? Well, New Jersey has many laws, in some cases too many conflicting or inadequate laws, dealing with our natural resources. What is lacking however, is the public support to implement those laws and the proper documentation of facts so as to utilize them. As a member of the "Friends" you will be given the opportunity to actively

support new legislation that would affect our natural resources and lobby for the implementation of existing laws.

If you join between now and June 30, 1987 you can become a charter member of the "Friends of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program." Members will be kept informed of the program's activities through regular mailings, timely meetings with prominent speakers to be held at nature centers throughout the state, and by offering learning experiences about the environment to young and old. Most importantly, however, we will provide you with the opportunity to participate with us in the noblest cause of all—the preservation of our natural resources.

Thank you for your support.

*Robert Shomer, VMD, President
Friends of the ENSP*

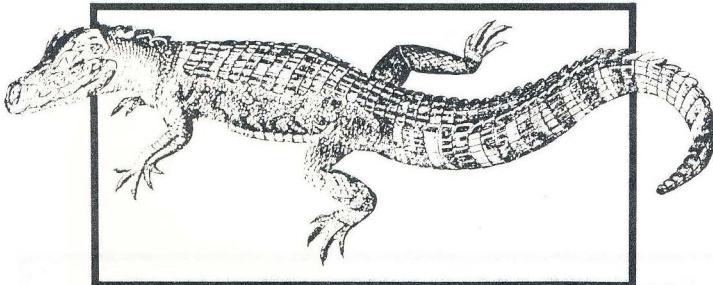
American Alligator Continues Rebound

The American alligator, once thought to be on the verge of extinction, is making a remarkable recovery throughout its range in the Southeast. This relic of the dinosaur age reached such low numbers by the late 1960's that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed it as endangered. The recent rebound, a result of intensive state and federal law enforcement and sound wildlife management practices, has been so successful that the USFWS now considers the species "biologically secure throughout its range in the Southeast."

The American alligator is one of earth's oldest creatures and has remained unchanged for 200 million years. Widespread poaching and other types of illegal harvesting were cited as the major causes for their decline.

The USFWS now proposes that the alligator be reclassified in seven states—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma and South Carolina. The alligator was previously reclassified in Louisiana, Texas and Florida, where the reptile's numbers are the greatest. The move would change the species' listing from "endangered" or "threatened" to "threatened by similarity of appearance." This category maintains that the commercial products made from the American alligators so closely resemble the products made from other crocodilians that it is extremely difficult to distinguish them. The similarity of appearance could pose a threat to the species.

The designation acknowledges that the animal has recovered in the states involved, but holds it in a special category for continued monitoring.



CHARTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

"Friends of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DUES

Individual (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00)

(Please make checks payable to: "Friends of the ENSP")

All charter members will receive a charter member arm patch and membership card.

*Charter memberships accepted until June 30, 1987.

Applications submitted after this date will receive regular memberships.

Please complete the section below so that we can better serve you.

1. Special Interests and Activities

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Birding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> Herptiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other— |

2. Volunteer Work

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Help at meetings |
|-----------------------------------|---|

3. Special Skills

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Wood Carving | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other— | |

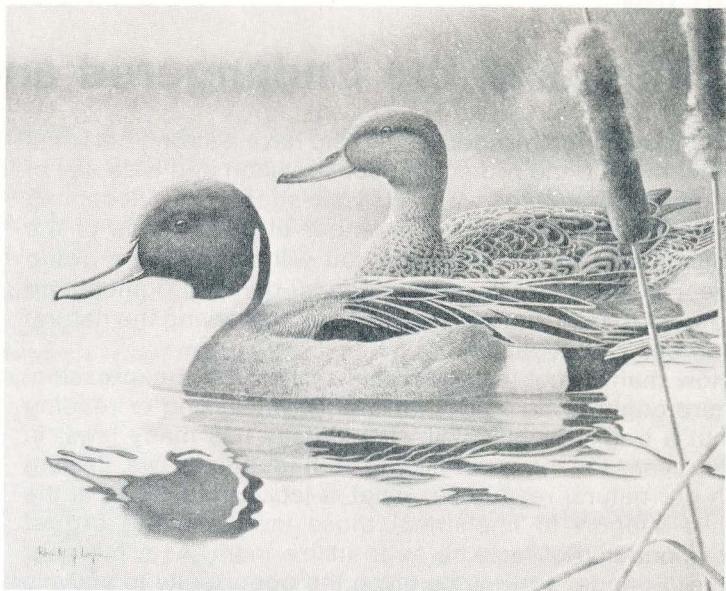
Send completed applications to: Richard Ryan, Secretary
Friends of the ENSP
38 Brookside Avenue
Livingston, N.J. 07039

Waterfowl Stamp

New Jersey's third waterfowl stamp depicting a pair of pintails resting on the water is now on sale. This stamp was designed by Ronald J. Louque, winner of the 1984 World Championship Waterfowl Painting Competition. Numbered and signed limited editions of the design are available from local art dealers for \$142.50 each (including the stamps). These prints measure 6-1/2" x 9" and are considered collector items, since prior year prints now sell for more than twice the original cost on the secondary market. The stamps, which are required for waterfowl hunting in New Jersey in addition to the federal duck stamp, come in two denominations—\$2.50 for residents and \$5.00 for non-residents. These stamps are available at license agents of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife and from Division offices.

When you purchase the stamps, or invest in these beautiful pieces of wildlife art, you will make a contribution toward conserving and acquiring wetland habitat that is critical to the survival of a wide variety of wildlife. Think about it, by purchasing a limited edition waterfowl print or waterfowl stamps, you can help preserve a piece of New Jersey's rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat.

Proceeds from the sale of New Jersey's first two waterfowl stamps issued in 1984 and 1985 totaled over \$850,000.00 and will be used for wetland conservation and acquisition throughout the state. Since the waterfowl stamp funds have become available over 2,200 acres have been purchased for wildlife. A total of 869 acres has been added to the Heisler-ville-Dennis Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), while 546 acres was added to the Dix WMA, 509 acres to the Mad Horse Creek WMA and 324 acres to the Great Bay WMA.



Annual Report Available

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program's 1985 Annual Report is now available to any interested party upon request. The 26 page report summarizes all of the research and management projects that were conducted during the 1985 calendar year. So, for all of our supporters who wish to know how their check-off dollars are being spent, send for your free report today. To get your copy send \$.73 in postage stamps to our Trenton office.

ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, CN 400
Trenton, N.J. 08625
609-292-9400

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Endangered and Nongame Species Program



*Invest in New Jersey's wildlife
and watch your interest soar!*

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